

VARIABLE RATE HIGH-SPEED INPUT AND OUTPUT IN OPTICAL

COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an optical communication network, a variable rate or non-uniform input rate signal is converted to a "pseudo" signal comprising a uniform or standard data rate for the optical communication system. At the receiver, the original non-uniform rate signal is recovered.

Non-uniform signals do not have data rates compatible with the standard transmission rate or rates of the transmission system in which they are to be transmitted. In one version, a "pseudo" signal is generated comprising a data transmission frame format including a payload portion comprising a plurality of subpackets comprising data of the original input signal, and stuff bytes, the stuff bytes comprising null data to fill unused parts of the payload portion.